

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. These claims were rejected as follows:

Claims / Section	35 U.S.C. Sec.	References / Notes
1-7, 9-16, 18-21, 23-27, & 29-32	§103(a) Obviousness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DeKoning (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,194); and • Williams, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,867,731).
8, 17, 22, & 28	§103(a) Obviousness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DeKoning (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,194); • Williams, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,867,731); and • Kari (PCT Publication No. WO 97/48249).

5 Applicants thank the Examiner for his willingness to conduct a telephone
interview in this case and his constructive comments and suggestions related to
patentable subject matter. Applicants have therefore amended the claims in
accordance with the suggested language. Applicants have further provided an
additional Information Disclosure Statement that is being filed concurrently herewith
10 and request that this art be considered in the next office action.

Since the Examiner considered this amended claim language as distinguishing the claims over the art of record, the Applicants request that the claims be reconsidered and that all outstanding rejections be withdrawn from the present application.

CONCLUSION

Inasmuch as each of the objections have been overcome by the amendments, and all of the Examiner's suggestions and requirements have been satisfied, it is respectfully requested that the present application be reconsidered, the rejections be withdrawn and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 45,877)

Mark Bergner
SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP
PATENT DEPARTMENT
6600 Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6473
(312) 258-5779
Attorney for Applicants
Customer Number 26574

Appl. No. 10/772,700
Reply to Office Action of November 6, 2006



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

5

Feb. 6, 2007

Mark Berger

10